

Medicare managed care programs. For example, Fall River County in South Dakota, receives \$177 per month, per beneficiary versus \$678 for Bronx County in New York—a 367 percent difference.

My bill reduces this variation and reimburses rural providers relative to their metropolitan counterparts. The result, of course, is that Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas will have the opportunity to participate in managed care plans.

Third, it improves the educational opportunities for nurses. Nurses are a critical component to rural health care. My bill guarantees that 20 percent of all scholarships offered through the National Health Service Corps go to nurses in rural areas. Since 1972, over 70 health care providers have served in Wyoming through the services of the National Health Service Corps Program. So we put greater emphasis there.

Regarding recruiting and retaining physicians, Medicare currently provides a 10 percent bonus in rural areas. Ten percent is not much of an incentive. So it is increased to 20. To compensate for the increase, the bonus is restricted to primary care physicians in rural areas.

In addition, the bill guarantees 24-hour emergency care. Medicare currently restricts States from establishing limited-service hospitals. As a result, many facilities either have to operate as full-service hospitals, with very low utilization, or close. We are suggesting they be recategorized as a rural emergency access care hospital so that indeed they can be reimbursed from HCFA for these emergency services.

In conclusion, Mr. President, as we search for solutions to deliver health care throughout the country, the Rural Development Health Care Act is one proposal that should be added to the list. Many of the provisions have received a favorable response—so much so that they are likely to be folded into the reconciliation package.

More important, the Rural Development Health Care Act provides the answer to rural communities that are looking to keep up with the rapidly changing health care environment.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 216

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 216, a bill to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment.

S. 304

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the transportation fuels tax applicable to commercial aviation.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX] was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an election to exclude from the gross estate of a decedent the value of certain land subject to a qualified conservation easement, and to make technical changes to alternative valuation rules.

S. 1137

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1137, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the licensing of music, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2711

At the request of Mr. REID the names of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE], the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON], and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2711 proposed to H.R. 1868, a bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

BYRD AMENDMENT NO. 2768

Mr. BYRD proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1244) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 53, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

(H) The Chief of the National Guard Bureau who shall be an ex officio member.

On page 66, strike line 15 and insert the following:

SEC. 211. IMPROVING ORDER AND DISCIPLINE.

(a) DRESS CODE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the first day of the 1996-1997 school year, the Commission shall develop and implement, through the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, a uniform dress code for the District of Columbia Public Schools.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The dress code—

(A) shall include a prohibition of gang membership symbols;

(B) shall take into account the relative costs of any policy for each student; and

(C) may include a requirement that students wear uniforms.

(B) COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR SUSPENDED STUDENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any student suspended from classes at a District of Columbia Public School who is required to serve the suspension outside the school shall perform community service for the period of suspension.

The community service required by this subsection shall be subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the Mayor.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect beginning on the first day of the 1996-1997 school year.

SEC. 212. EXPIRATION DATE.

BYRD AMENDMENT NO. 2769

Mr. BYRD proposed an amendment to amendment No. 2768 proposed by him to the bill S. 1244, supra; as follows:

On page 2, after line 25 insert the following:

(c) EXPIRATION DATE.—This section and the membership provided in section 202(a)(2)(H) shall expire on the last day of the 1997-1998 school year.

(d) REPORT.—The Commission shall study the effectiveness of the policies implemented pursuant to this section in improving order and discipline in schools and report its findings to the appropriate committees of Congress 60 days before the last day of the 1997-1998 school year.

DORGAN AMENDMENT NO. 2770

Mr. DORGAN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1244, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following new section:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON BUDGET PRIORITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996 (H. Con. Res. 67) calls for \$245 billion in tax reductions and \$270 billion in projected spending reductions from Medicare;

(2) reducing projected Medicare spending by \$270 billion could substantially increase out-of-pocket health care costs for senior citizens, reduce the quality of care available to Medicare beneficiaries and threaten the financial health of some health care providers, especially in rural areas;

(3) seventy-five percent of Medicare beneficiaries have annual incomes of less than \$25,000;

(4) most of the tax cuts in the tax bill passed by the House of Representatives (H.R. 1215) go to families making over \$100,000 per year, according to the Office of Tax Analysis of the United States Department of the Treasury.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Committee on Finance and the Senate should approve no tax legislation which reduces taxes for those making over \$101,000 per year; and

(2) the savings from limiting any tax reductions in this way should be used to reduce any cuts in projected Medicare spending.

INHOFE AMENDMENT NO. 2771

Mr. INHOFE proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1244, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following: "None of the funds provided in this Act may be used directly or indirectly for the renovation of the property located at 227 7th Street Southeast (commonly known as Eastern Market), except that funds provided in this Act may be used for the regular maintenance and upkeep of the current structure and grounds located at such property."

JEFFORDS AMENDMENT NO. 2772

Mr. JEFFORDS proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1244, supra; as follows: